

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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1. (currently amended) A method of recycling a digital camera which includes a communication section, comprising:

outputting image data from a the communication section  
~~which outputs image data to an external device; and~~

covering the communication section portion of the  
digital camera with a removable protecting means which covers  
~~the communication section and~~ which is removed at times when the  
image data is output, the protecting means substantially  
contouring to the outer surface of the communication section,

wherein, after the protecting means is removed and the  
image data is taken out from the communication section, the  
communication section is once again covered by the protecting  
means, thereby resetting the communication section.

2. (original) A method of recycling a digital camera  
according to claim 1, wherein the protecting means covers the  
communication section and charging terminals for charging a  
power source.

3. (original) method of recycling a digital camera  
according to claim 1, wherein said protecting means is a sheet-  
shaped member which is elastic.

4. (original) A method of recycling a digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said protecting means is a protection film which wraps up the communication section and the charging terminals.

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5. (original) A method of recycling a digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising an indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed.

6. (original) digital camera according to claim 5, wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed.

7. (currently amended) A digital camera comprising:  
a communication section which outputs image data to an external device, and  
a removable protecting means which covers the communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the communication section, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section.

8. (original) A digital camera according to claim 7, wherein the protecting means covers the communication section and charging terminals for charging a power source.

9. (original) A digital camera according to claim 7,  
wherein said protecting means is a sheet-shaped member which is  
elastic.

10. (original) A digital camera according to claim 7,  
wherein said protecting means is a protection film which wraps  
up the communication section and the charging terminals.

11. (original) A digital camera according to claim 7,  
further comprising indicating means for indicating that said  
protecting means was removed.

12. (original) A digital camera according to claim 7,  
wherein said communication section is formed integrally with a  
body of the digital camera, and is a window whose transmission  
of data to and receipt of data from an external device is  
controlled by a CPU.

13. (original) A digital camera according to claim 11,  
wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is  
exposed when the protecting means is removed.

14. (currently amended) A digital camera comprising:

a communication section which outputs image data to an  
external device, and

a removable protecting cover which covers the  
communication section and is removed at times when the image  
data is output, thereby resetting the communication section, the

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protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section.

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15. (original) A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein the protecting cover covers the communication section and charging terminals for charging a power source.

16. (original) A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein said protecting cover is a sheet-shaped member which is elastic.

17. (original) A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein said protecting cover is a protection film which wraps up the communication section and the charging terminals.

18. (original) A digital camera according to claim 14, further comprising indicating means for indicating that said protecting means was removed.

19. (original) A digital camera according to claim 14, wherein said communication section is formed integrally with a body of the digital camera, and is a window whose transmission of data to and receipt of data from an external device is controlled by a CPU.

20. (original) A digital camera according to claim 18, wherein said indicating means is a "seal broken" mark which is exposed when the protecting means is removed.

*21!*  
*21*  
21. (new) The method of recycling a digital camera as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication section outputs the image data to an external device via infrared radiation.

22. (new) The digital camera as set forth in claim 7, wherein the communication section outputs the image data to an external device via infrared radiation.

23. (new) The digital camera as set forth in claim 14, wherein the communication section outputs the image data to an external device via infrared radiation.

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